

WEEKLY UPDATE

July 6th – July 10th, 2020



NEWS & NOTES

Nursing Home:

The facility performed another round of testing this week. No residents and no staff tested COVID positive.

Today, the facility entered into Phase 1 as defined by VDH for nursing homes. This Phase will allow residents to leave their rooms with masks and again enjoy meals in the dining areas (social distanced). Entering Phase 1 is very important as it will allow the residents to begin enjoying a higher quality of life. Continued negative tests are needed before entering into the next phase.

Info Technology:

Completed Tyler MUNIS Finance Training on importing General Ledger data and role-based security.

Kicked off initial meeting with Dwayne Hall, CamaPro Valuation Services, Commissioner of Revenue's Office, GIS, and IT on upgrading the County's Tax Assessment Software (Proval)

Provided options and cost estimates for improving County's virtual meeting capabilities for potential CARES funding reimbursement.

Tourism:



Please join us in welcoming Debbie Mullins and Shannon Kimberlin to the tourism team as our new part-time customer service representatives, replacing Ada Eubank and Dan Crumrine who retired in May. Debbie has a history in banking, sales, and customer service, and has been volunteering at the Welcome Center since last September. She has lived in Bedford since 1998. Shannon's work experience includes banking, bookkeeping, office management, and most recently, she owned her own store, Front Door Décor 'n More (located in

downtown Bedford), which closed in 2019. She is originally from Botetourt County and now resides in Bedford.

In June, we mailed over 130 brochures from leads received from advertising in Blue Ridge Country magazine, as well as from website requests received from Blue Ridge Parkway Association and from our own website. Potential visitors are able to request specific information on our [website](#) be mailed to them, and beginning very soon, we will offer this as a “curbside” option in person at the Welcome Center. We realize that many people are traveling and seeking outdoor attractions and may be hesitant to visit indoor locations. They can now call or email us ahead of time with the type of information they are seeking, and our customer service staff will assemble it and deliver it to their vehicle when they arrive.

The July newsletter is available [here](#). Be sure to also check our [online event calendar](#), which is updated regularly.

Economic Development:



On Thursday, the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a job fair and our office was a sponsor of that event. Dozens of local companies participated at the event behind Forest Library. A variety of job types were available including substitute teachers, sheriff’s deputies, weavers, upholsterers, and home health care workers. Neathawk Lumber in Montvale was on hand looking for truck drivers and lumber yard workers.

Shell Building update – Construction is progressing well with the Meade Road Extension scheduled to be complete by the end of July and the shell building to be complete by the end of August.

Library:

The Bedford Public Library has officially kicked off its annual summer reading program, though the format and content are a little different this year due to COVID-19 safety restrictions. As of July 7, there were over 250 registered online participants and together they read almost 60,000 minutes since June 15. For Pre-K and school age kids, when you log one hour of reading each week, you get a prize. For teens, read for two hours any you will earn a weekly prize. Keep reading to collect all eight weekly prizes! Once you complete 4 weeks, you earn the Tier 1 prize, your choice of a book. When you finish the 8th badge, you earn the Tier 2 prize, a backpack! There are additional raffle prizes for teens this year, check our website for details. <https://www.bplsonline.org/programs/summer-reading-adventure-2020/>



New this year, the Library welcomes singers/songwriters Sara Ernst and Mr. Jon to Bedford County, also Mill Mountain Zoo and their animal ambassadors. Don't miss the Roanoke Children's Theater performances of 'Kids on Broadway' at Forest and Moneta; plus 'Jack and the Wonder Beans' at all 6 library locations. And even Living in the Heart of Virginia visited the Forest Library to discuss the summer happenings this year

- <https://wset.com/lifestyle/living-in-the-heart-of-virginia/mill-mountain-zoo-teams-up-with-local-libraries>

The Bedford Public Library Foundation would like to thank all community sponsors whose contributions have made this year's summer reading program enjoyable for the whole family! And a special thank you to the Wharton Memorial Garden Foundation for letting us use your wonderful Children's Literacy Garden next to the Bedford Central Library.



FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS

Broadband:

The following are notable updates from the Broadband Advisory Committee:

- Moneta and Wheats Valley towers are actively under construction with the tower stacking scheduled over the next two weeks.
- Briscnet is deploying network equipment on the Hardy, Shady Grove, McGhee Road, and Landfill tower sites. These will be the next set of towers to "go live."
- Fiber is still being run to the New London, Moneta, and Huddleston towers. Huddleston fiber is posing challenges due to an 11th hour request to reroute by Southside Electric. George and the Committee recommended installing temporary microwave backhaul until the final fiber route can be determined and executed.
- To date, we have not received any bids or proposals for the a la carte tower maintenance service request for proposals. We will continue to push this out in hopes of getting responses.